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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, giver of good gifts, thank You for another day to serve You. Focus the attention of our Senators on Your will and enable them to discover what best pleases You. Help them to debate without quarrelling and to disagree without being disagreeable. Inspire them to become disciplined followers of Your purposes ever eager to obey Your commands. Guide, strengthen, and bless them until they reflect Your image of purity, honesty, humility, generosity, and love.

We pray in Your wonderful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 33

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk that is due for its second reading.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 33) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Mr. MCCONNELL. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The bill will be placed on the calendar.

SCHEDULE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today the Senate is continuing to consider S. 1, a bill to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline. Chairman MURKOWSKI and Senator CANTWELL are here this morning to manage debate, and there are several amendments pending. We will begin voting on those—and any amendments in the queue—around 2:15 p.m. on Tuesday afternoon.

I encourage all Senators who have not already done so to talk to the bill managers about scheduling a time to come down and offer their amendments.

It has taken a while to get going on this bill, and the last thing we need at this point is for Members who have been saying they want to have amendments to be reluctant to offer them.

STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, we are looking forward to welcoming President Obama to the Capitol on Tuesday. The State of the Union is a unique opportunity, not just for the President but for our entire country. If he lays out an agenda that corresponds

to the message the voters delivered in November, it could signal a truly productive moment for our country.

In November the American people told us they are tired of Washington's dysfunction. They told us they are tired of Washington's prioritizing the concerns of powerful special interests over their own. They called for a Congress that functions again, and that is just what we have been working toward. They called for Congress to focus on jobs and reform, and that is what we have been doing.

They also called for President Obama to cooperate with Congress to enact a different and better reform agenda for the middle class. On that front, we have some distance to cover, but Tuesday can be a new day. This can be the moment the President pivots to a positive posture. This can be a day he promotes realistic reforms that focus on economic growth instead of spending more money than we have. We are eager for him to do so.

There is much we can accomplish for the American people if the President is willing to work with us. We will be looking for signs of that in the speech he delivers Tuesday night.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE ACT

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1) to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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